



News Release

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DEFENSE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

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Buena Vista native awarded Defense Superior Service Medal, retires from United States Army

New Cumberland, Pa. – (Aug. 7, 2009) – Buena Vista native, United States Army Col. Perry L. Knight, retired after 27 years of military service in a ceremony on June 26. Officiating the ceremony was United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commander, Defense Distribution Center, or DDC, New Cumberland, Pa.

Knight's last military assignment was as chief of staff, DDC. He will continue his federal service as a civilian in a position as the DDC chief integration officer.

Talleri praised Knight for his outstanding leadership, devotion to duty, selfless service, masterful team building and dedication to our nation. "This extraordinary soldier has done it all. He's a warrior, leader, mentor, and an 'Army of One,'" said Talleri.

Knight's ability to balance customer service, cost, employee readiness, and sustainability has cemented DDC's position as the premier provider of distribution services to America's Warfighters. "Perry's infectious enthusiasm and unique, colorful attributes were truly force multipliers for this command," Talleri added.

During the ceremony, Talleri presented Knight with the Defense Superior Service Medal for leading his staff to a high degree of achievement in numerous critical projects of strategic impact.

"His superior leadership and outstanding initiatives brought lasting, substantial improvements in Warfighter support and positioned the Defense Distribution Center for continued future success," Talleri said.

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Talleri welcomed Knight into his new position, saying "He will continue to play a vital role in managing DDC mission operations, but also will directly influence Defense Logistics Agency and Department of Defense-wide distribution management policy and related resource allocation decisions. I cannot think of a better person to serve in this position than Perry!"

Knight concluded the ceremony, reflecting on his 27 years of service to the United States Army, "I now close my military career, a simple soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty."

Knight became the Defense Distribution Center Chief of Staff in July 2006.

A native of Buena Vista, Va., he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Transportation Corps upon graduation from the Virginia Military Institute in 1982. He holds a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Economics. He also holds a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.

Knight's assignments include the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Logistics Directorate, the Pentagon; Director, Logistics Operations, U.S. Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Ga.; Commander, 53rd Transportation Battalion, also located at Fort McPherson, Ga.; Brigade Operations Officer, 598th Transportation Group, Rotterdam, Netherlands; and Operation Officer, 2d COSCOM during Operation Desert Storm.

Additionally, he served in numerous positions in the First Infantry Division including Division Logistics Officer, Executive Officer of the 541st Combat Support Battalion; Division Transportation Officer; Support Operations Officer; and Operations Officer for the 166th Aviation Brigade, all located at Fort Riley, Kan. Knight also served on the Department of the Army Staff, Logistics and as the Aide-de-Camp for the Commander, Military Traffic Management Command and held several positions in the Netherlands and Germany as a platoon leader, executive officer and commander.

His military training includes the Transportation Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters and the Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

His other decorations include the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Kuwaiti (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) Liberation Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Support Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Superior Unit Award, and the National Defense Service Medal. He is also authorized to wear the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Department of the Army Identification Badges.

Knight is the son of Mildred and Bobbie Knight, who currently reside in Midlothian, Va.